Remarks

No new matter has been added by this amendment. By this amendment claims 1-6 and 8-12 have been amended and new claim 13 has been added.

Respectfully submitted,

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In the Claims (Marked-up Version)

1. (Amended). A fuel filter comprising a filter body [(10)] having opposing filter body ends, the filter body defining an internal chamber [(15)] within which a filter medium [(16)] is to be located, the filter medium including a filter member having a first end secured to a support plate [(17)] and a second end secured to the filter body [(10)], the filter body [(10)] being of multi-part construction, the parts [(10a, 10b)] of the filter body [(10)] being non-removably, sealingly secured to one another, the filter body [(10)] being shaped to define an inlet port [(11)] and an outlet port [(13)] communicating with dirty and clean sides of the filter medium, respectively both the inlet and the outlet ports being positioned at the same body end of the filter body.

2. (Amended). The filter as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the parts [(10a, 10b)] of the filter body [(10)] are secured to one another be means of a friction welding technique.

3. (Amended). The filter as claimed in Claim 1 [or 2], wherein the filter medium [(16)] is a pleated paper filter member.

4. (Amended). The filter as claimed in Claim 1 [to 3], wherein the second end of the filter member is bonded directly to the filter body [(10)].

5. (Amended). The filter as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 4] Claim 1, wherein the filter body [(10)] further defines a second inlet port [(12)] and a return port [(14)].

6. (Amended). The filter as claimed in Claim 5, further comprising a temperature sensitive valve [(22)] operable to control whether fuel entering the filter body [(10)] through the second inlet port [(12)] is supplied to the dirty side of the filter medium [(16)] or supplied to the return port [(14)] for return to a fuel reservoir.

8. (Amended). The filter as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the ball valve comprises a valve member [(22)] which is moveable under the influence of a bimetallic element [(21)].

9. (Amended). The filter as claimed in [any one of Claims 6 to 8] Claim 7, further comprising a non-return valve member [(24)] resiliently biased into engagement with a

seating [(26)] to ensure that fuel is able to flow from the second inlet port [(12)] to the return port [(14)], but to substantially prevent fuel and/or gas vapour flow in the reverse direction.

10. (Amended). The filter as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the non-return valve member [(24)] comprises a plate formed from rubber or a rubber-like material.

11. (Amended). The filter as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 8] Claim 1, further comprising a downwardly depending tubular member [(18)] which is secured to the filter body [(10)], the tubular member [(18)] serving to force fuel flow in a downward direction prior to entering the tubular member [(18)], in use.

12. (Amended). The filter as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the tubular member [(18)] is provided with one or more openings [(19)] through which air is able to flow at a relatively low rate.

13. (New) The filter as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the second end of the filter member is bonded directly to the filter body.

ABSTRACT

FILTER

A fuel filter comprising a filter body [(10)] defining an internal chamber [(15)] within which a filter medium [(16)] is to be located, the filter body [(10)] being of multi-part construction, the parts [(10, 10)] of the filter body [(10)] being non-removably, sealingly secured to one another. The filter body [(10)] is shaped to define an inlet port [(11)] and an outlet port [(13)] communicating with dirty and clean sides of the filter medium, respectively. The fuel filter may also include a second inlet port [(12)] for receiving fuel, a return port [(14)] arranged to permit the return flow of fuel from the filter to a low pressure fuel reservoir, and a temperature sensitive valve [(22)] operable to control whether fuel entering the filter body [(10)] through the second inlet port [(12)] is supplied to the dirty side of the filter medium [(16)] or supplied to the return port [(14)] for return to the fuel reservoir.